



# Astro News

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"Forging the shape of military space for the 21st century"

Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 21, 2001

## Another perfect Atlas mission 18th success in a row for heritage launch team

By Tim Dougherty  
Astro News Editor

VANDENBERG AFB, Calif. – An Atlas IAS rocket punched through the low cloud deck into the clear morning air Sept. 8, taking a National Reconnaissance Office payload to orbit and signaling the completion of another successful mission for the men and women of Space and Missile Systems Center, SMC's Detachment 9, 30th Space Wing, the NRO, Lockheed Martin and The Aerospace Corporation.

"It was the most beautiful launch that none of us saw," said Lt. Col. Nancy Insprucker, referring to the low cloud cover that obscured viewing the rocket from the ground. "The all-star

Atlas team really pushed the envelope on this mission. We had some stellar performances from acting Atlas Program Manager Maj. Linda Tyree, Capt. Gordon White, the Air Force Integrator for MLV-10, and Capt. Stephanie Mendola, the chief engineer. Of course, our unsung Aerospace heroes included Larry Robinson, Jorge Encalada and Randy Williams."

During the countdown, Insprucker served as on-line Launch Programs System Program Director and gave the mission director the final launch vehicle "go!"

"Insprucker and her team did an exceptional job generating the successful Atlas launch system for this extremely challenging mission, double-

checking everything during the last three weeks to ensure nothing was overlooked, and continuing their sharp focus all the way through the countdown," said Col. Mike Dunn, SMC's Launch Programs director. "Both Insprucker and Tyree did a terrific job and handled everything that came up with great confidence and expertise. It was very, very impressive to see these two seasoned space professionals in action."

This launch makes 18 successful missions in a row for the SMC Heritage Launch Team, with 27 launches remaining. The next launch will be a Titan IV from Vandenberg Oct. 1, followed by an Atlas launch from the east coast next month.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rodney Jones

An Atlas IAS rocket punches through the clouds in the early morning Sept. 8 from Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

## America united by tragedy

### SMC commander: 'Go forth as a team'

By Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold  
SMC Commander

The strength of our nation is once again tested by the near cataclysmic events of Sept. 11. We all viewed with horror, fear and anger the events of that day and the terrible consequences suffered by our fellow Americans and, especially at the World Trade Center, by many from abroad. As we count our missing and our dead, we find among them Irish-Americans, African-Americans, Italian-Americans, German-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Arab-Americans, Asian-Americans and Americans of other nationalities. Other nations, European, Asian and Muslim, all suffered casualties. The human suffering embodied in this devastation knows no boundaries. Each of us shares this tragic loss.

So too, as we count our heroes, those who gave their lives and those who continue to sacrifice, we find Americans from many nationalities and many backgrounds among the volunteers and professional police, firefighters, Red Cross workers and clergy. The diversity of our nation is our strength. We are like a big family. We may argue over racial and political agendas, but the one thing we can agree on is the fact that all Americans, regardless of our race, religion or nationality, are united in our resolve. We share a common goal – working together to combat terrorism wherever we find it, whether abroad or in our nation, our states, or our communities.

SMC is a world-class organization with world-class people whose professionalism will be crucial to the task at hand. In the face of this challenge, we need, more than ever before, to bind ourselves together, put aside any "family" differences, and go forth as a team to answer our nation's call.



Photo by Joe Juarez

Members of Team SMC observed a minute of silence in the Area A mall Sept. 14 as a memorial to the thousands killed in terrorist attacks in New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania Sept. 11. "These tragically historic events will not weaken us," said SMC commander Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold. "These events will strengthen our resolve to show the world we are the greatest nation the world has ever known."

# SMC reacts to terrorist attacks, ponders next move



Capt. James Riehl  
Logistics Manager, SMC/AX

The depths of depravity to which these terrorists have gone to attack our citizens and our way of life sickens me. These people, who kill in the name of God, have earned their own place in hell because of their acts of evil.



Staff Sgt. Marco Escandon  
Information Manager, 61ABG

This is a time for action. This is not a time to consider giving up any freedom for safety. Since the birth of our nation we have had to fight for and defend it, this is nothing new. Great generations have defended this country in the past, it's time for this generation to step up. God bless America!

Photos by  
Tim Dougherty



Capt. Janet Haug  
System Acquisitions

I've experienced a mix of emotions since Sept. 11, from being stunned, sad and angry. I keep the radio and television tuned into the news all the time. I try to stay positive. I pray and talk a lot to my family. Most of my family was in WWII and have a lot of wisdom to share.



Jonette Sadiq  
Budget Analyst, 61ABG

I feel so much sadness in my heart for those who have lost loved ones — spouses, children, parents, friends... It has been an unbelievably sad time. People all over the country have had their lives forever changed. It's a reminder to let those who are close to us know how much we love and appreciate them — every minute we spend with families and friends is a gift.



Ron Guidry  
Electrician, Civil Engineering

My prayers go out to the victims, their families, and everyone involved in the rescue efforts. Working here on the Air Force Base has made me vividly aware of the severity of this tragedy and the inevitability of the events to come. God bless America!



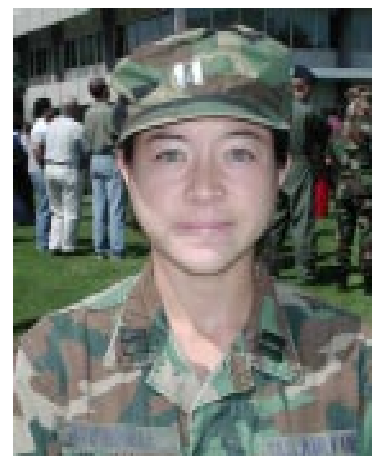
Tech. Sgt. Jim Darity  
NAVSTAR GPS

On Sept. 11 cowards struck at the heart and soul of America's might and the American way of life. They hoped to dishearten, divide and instill fear in the hearts and minds of the American people by raining down death and destruction. Instead they have galvanized and united us as a nation. We resolve that terrorism will not stand and those responsible will be brought to justice.



Masoud Abu-Zaineh  
Network System Administrator

Make no mistake about it; this horrible attack was aimed at all of us here in America without exception and we, Arab Americans, shared every bit of the heartache and anguish that our country has been enduring. No matter who was responsible for this terrible crime, which no cause or ideology could possibly justify, Arab Americans will be no less moved, no less angry and no less outraged than our fellow Americans. Clearly, the best answer to such a despicable attack is for all of us to join hands and come together to support each other in our time of need. May God bless America.



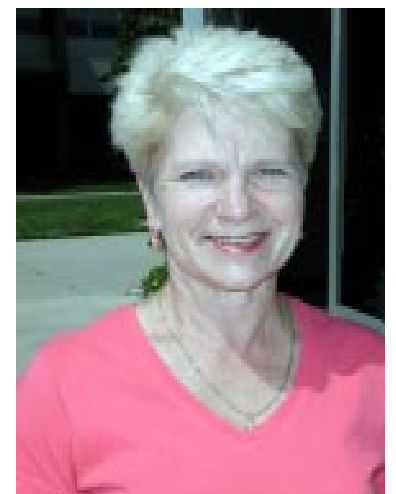
Capt. Sunnie Brownell  
Acquisition Management SMC/MV

If the responsible people were tried and punished by a U.S. or international court, I think it would underscore the value that we as a people place on democratic law, not violence. I know that a trial will not prevent future attacks, but I still hope it is one of the many actions we take.



Elaine Marquez  
Contract Specialist

Like most of us, I feel shock and outrage at this cowardly act inflicted on the people of the United States. We all share the pain of the victims and their families. I'm proud to be an American. We need to share our sorrow and stand together as we face the days ahead. God bless America and all her people!



Emilia Jones  
Budget Analyst, SMC/FM

When I came to this country from Europe, I felt that the Statue of Liberty and the World Trade Center were the two biggest symbols of New York. It breaks my heart to see one of those symbols and thousands of lives lost, not only in New York, but in Washington D.C. and Pittsburgh as well. My thoughts and prayers are with those who lost their loved ones in this tragic event. I hope this will encourage each and all of us to love the ones you care about now, because you never know what tomorrow will bring.



# America's Air Force: No one comes close

Blue suiters take time to celebrate birthday

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – The Air Force celebrated its 54th birthday Sept. 18. Below is a special birthday message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:

"Within two short years following victory in World War II, our nation's leaders confronted a dramatically new strategic and technological environment. The global alliance against fascism had yielded to Cold War, and new weapons systems introduced in the previous conflict promised to fundamentally change the nature of warfare. At the same time, our own defense budget and military manpower shrank considerably as our people turned from wartime military

mobilization to peaceful domestic pursuits. Our armed forces, which were organized so successfully to defeat the Axis powers, were faced with a more complex set of roles and missions. In short, it was a time -- much like today -- that demanded innovation, vision and transformation.

"President Truman rose to that challenge when he signed the National Security Act of 1947, creating our contemporary defense establishment, including the United States Air Force. Since that time, the men and women of America's Air Force have ceaselessly and selflessly mastered the challenges of a changing world. From the heroic airlift in Berlin to the awesome displays of global vigilance, reach and

power in (Operations)Desert Storm and Allied Force, and from peacekeeping missions in the Balkans to humanitarian operations in Africa, America's Air Force has enabled aerospace power to serve the cause of peace and freedom.

"In the past 54 years, our airmen have served with an extraordinary combination of integrity, selflessness, and creativity across the spectrum of operations. Whether standing on guard for deterrence in Europe or Asia, conducting joint combat operations, helping to make the expeditionary aerospace force succeed, or manning our logistics and support functions at home, no one comes close.

"We pause on the 18th of September to remember the day



Photo by Joe Juarez

Space and Missile Systems Center commander Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold hands first piece of birthday cake to youngest airman Airman Basic Analiza Dinong.

our great Air Force began this journey. We pause to reflect on our mission and our purpose, especially in light of the recent attack on our nation. We are extremely proud of the service and contributions of America's Air Force men and women -- your vigilance and response was quick and purposeful, potentially limiting the extent of this terrible tragedy. Airmen

everywhere will now move forward to meet the challenge of today's threat. We extend our heartfelt best wishes and Godspeed to our world class team of active-duty airmen, Air National Guardsmen, Air Force employees, and Air Force reservists, retirees, veterans and their families as we commemorate the birthday of the United States Air Force."

## Action Line 363-2255

The Action Line is your direct link to Col. Phil Parker, 61st Air Base Group commander. As members of Team Los Angeles, we share a common goal of building a strong sense of community where we support each other and work together to provide the best programs and services that serve all customers or users equitably. Although we strive to achieve this goal daily, there will be occasions when a base member or visitor believes we could have helped him or her in a more courteous or timely manner, or in some way better meet their expectations. In those cases, the individual concerned should first contact the responsible organization to allow unit command-

ers and managers an opportunity to resolve the issue and ensure professional and impartial treatment. When these officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual should contact Col. Phil Parker through the Action Line at 363-2255. Each Action Line call will be thoroughly researched and a reply will be given by telephone or in writing. All Action Line callers should leave their name and number so they can receive a personal response. Together we can continue to make Los Angeles AFB a great place to work, live and visit!



Base Exchange – Bob Westergard .....	640-0129
Base IG – Lt. Col. John Woodcock .....	363-0802
Base Safety Office – Tech. Sgt. Mark Garner .....	363-3048
Chaplain – Lt. Col. James Rozman .....	363-5354
Civil Engineering – Lt. Col. William Kitch .....	363-0287
Commissary – Al Cherry .....	363-6140
Communications Squadron – Lt. Col. Lori Ramirez .....	363-0798
Equal Employment Opportunity Program Office – Leonard Gonzales .....	363-1565
Family Support Center – Tom Sanders .....	363-5365
Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline .....	363-2020
Housing – Randy Farley .....	363-8340
Logistics – Maj. Ronald Graham .....	363-0351
Medical Squadron – Col. Greg Allen .....	363-5005
Mission Support – Maj. William Arrington III .....	363-1230
Privacy Act/FOIA – Jesusa Cruz .....	363-2576
Public Affairs – Lt. Col. John Cherry .....	363-0030
Security Forces – Master Sgt. Tyrone Herron .....	363-1315
Services – Gary Van Dusen .....	363-0430
Military Equal Opportunity Office – Capt. Marizel Escalante .....	363-2806
TRICARE/Health Benefits – Rosie Manning .....	363-0261
24-hour Crime Stop .....	363-2124
Legal Office – Lt. Col. Ormond Fodrea .....	363-1272
Area Defense Counsel – Capt. Edward Fabi .....	363-6776

## Astro News

### Space and Missile Systems Center Editorial Staff

Lt. Gen. Brian Arnold .....	Commander
Lt. Col. John Cherry .....	Director of Public Affairs
Peggy Hodge .....	Chief of Internal Information
Tim Dougherty .....	Editor
Joe Davidson .....	Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. Neil Spann .....	Staff Writer
2nd. Lt. Annette Wells .....	Staff Writer

### Editorial policy

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Deadline for submissions is Friday, close of business, the week before publication. Articles should be sent via e-mail to the editor. The mailing address for photos is SMC/PAI, 2420 Vela Way, El Segundo, Calif. 90245.

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For advertising information or space reservations, call Gail at 661-945-5634.

Submit news to:  
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Call 363-0303 for more  
information.

## Experts: 'Building 100 air is safe'



Photo by Tim Dougherty

Dr. Bobby Gunter, one of the nation's leading experts in indoor air quality, spoke at a Town Hall meeting Sept. 13 to report his findings after an exhaustive study of the air and water quality in Building 100. "When I do these studies, I always ask myself if I would work in the buildings I'm looking at. In the case of Building 100, the answer is yes. The air and water quality is excellent," he said. Balancing of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning in Building 100 is ongoing. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Doug Fritts at 363-2215.

## Thrift Savings open to military from Oct. 9

By Gerry Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Service members starting Oct. 9 can choose to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's thrift savings and investment program as part of building a nest egg for retirement.

The TSP, administered by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, previously has been available only to federal civilian employees. The fiscal 2001 Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act extended TSP participation to active duty and reserve component members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and uniformed members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

TSP is separate from and in addition to the military retirement system, which is based on years of service and rank.

The first enrollment window

for persons who entered military service on or before Dec. 8, 2001, is from Oct. 9, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2002. Persons who enroll during this period will see TSP contributions deducted each month from their pay starting in January 2002.

Persons who join the uniformed services after Dec. 8, 2001, will have 60 days after entering service to enroll in the TSP.

After the special first enrollment period, service members may use two "open seasons" each year to join, quit or change the amount of their contributions. Currently, these periods are May 15 through July 31 and Nov. 15 through Jan. 31.

Military members enroll in TSP by completing a TSP election form and submitting it through their local service branch finance office. Enrollment forms are available for download on the TSP Web site, <http://www.tsp.gov>, or can be obtained at local military finance offices. Participants can invest any whole percentage of

up to 7 percent of their base pay in any or all of five TSP funds:

- The conservative G Fund consists exclusively of investments in short-term, nonmarketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to TSP.

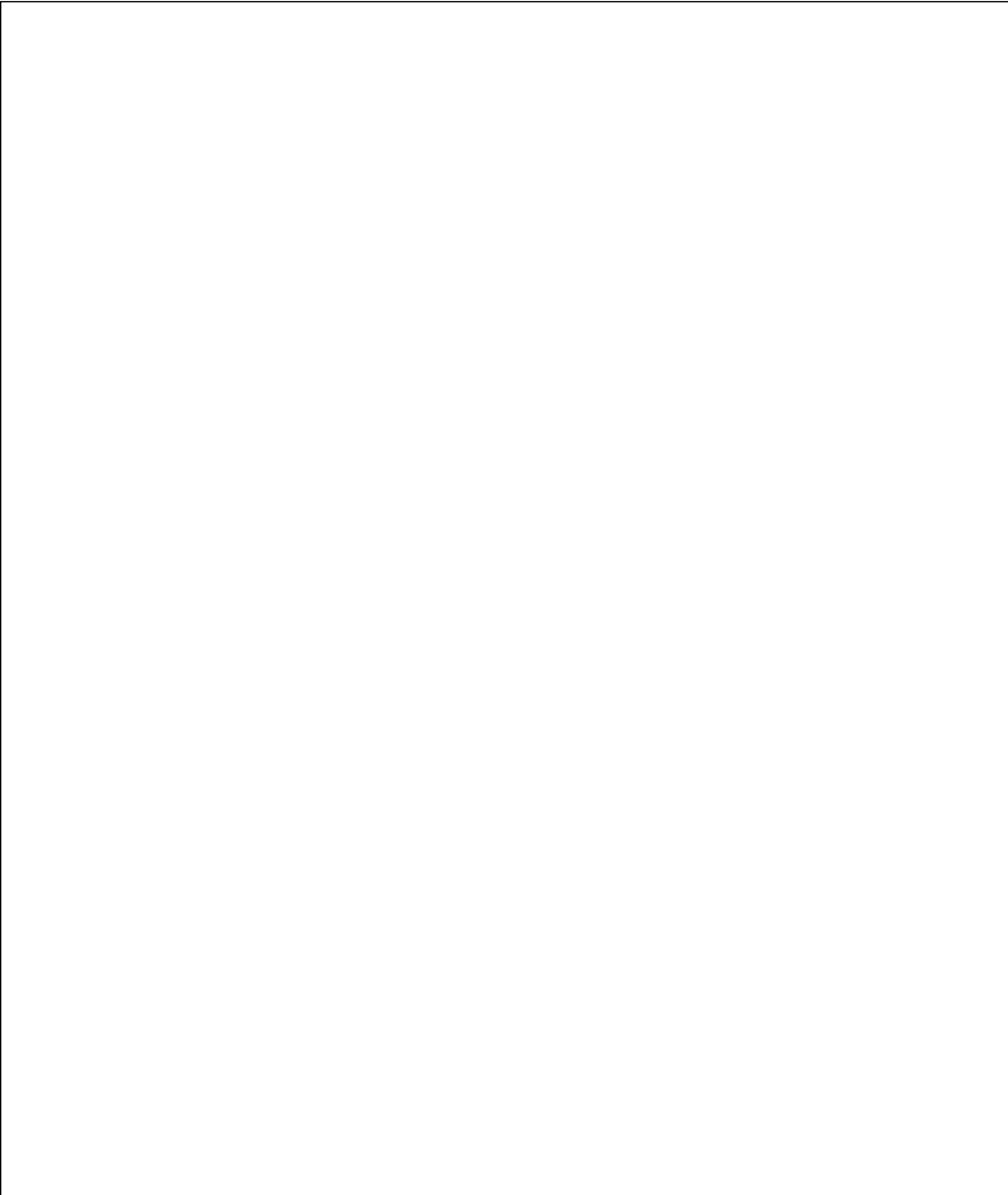
- The F Fund is TSP's bond market index fund.

- The C Fund is TSP's large-company U.S. stock index fund.

- The S Fund is TSP's medium and small company stock index fund. The I Fund is its international stock index fund.

Only G Fund investments and earnings are backed by the U.S. government against loss. TSP participants risk losing some or all their investments and earnings in the F, C, S and I funds — but the funds' earning potential is unlimited.

Service members can contribute as little as 1 percent of their base pay per pay period, up to the 7 percent limit in 2002. The limit increases by 1 percent per year until 2005.



# SMC tests space durability of common materials

By Hap Parker  
Public Affairs

Remember the individual displays and exhibits eager students used to explain their projects in high school science fair programs? Compare that practice with what you may see done today in real-world science-generating environments.

That's a way of life for engineers and scientists assigned to the Space and Missile Systems Center, headquartered at Los Angeles AFB, Calif. Advancing science and applying new technologies to military space systems help set the tone for forging the shape of military space for the 21st century.

For example, look at a small portion of what happened in August 2001 when NASA launched its space shuttle mission STS-105 to rendezvous with the International Space Station. On board the shuttle



was MISSE containing hundreds of Department of Defense experiments to be placed on the ISS.

In particular, MISSE – Materials on ISS Experiment – is designed to investigate the effects of the space environment on various materials for use in future spacecraft and space vehicles. Material specimens are placed in four separate carriers and installed externally to the ISS for conducting the experiments.

MISSE is the first experi-

ment ever attached to the exterior of the ISS.

“We are looking to test more than 1,500 items including materials such as ceramics, polymers, thermal control coatings and organic matrix composites,” said

Capt. Thomas Hoge, DOD Manned Spaceflight Payloads Manager at the NASA's Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas. “MISSE does not require data handling or power and should yield the passive sample coupons we are seeking.

“The first results of the test will be available when two of the four material carriers are brought back to Earth in November 2002,” Hoge said. “The last two carriers are expected to stay an additional three years on orbit.”

Hoge went on to explain that the reusable carriers (passive experiment carriers) were originally developed by NASA's Langley Research Center for risk mitigation experiments on the Russian Space Station Mir.

“We worked very closely with NASA to refly the carriers on the ISS. We cooperatively interacted with folks at NASA's Johnson Space Center and Langley Research Center,

the Materials Laboratory at the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Boeing Phantom Works.

“And, talking about eager students and science projects, that's not all,” Hoge explained. “The AFRL Educational Outreach office at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, worked with several Dayton, Ohio, area middle-grade schools to contribute some of the samples used with MISSE. This was not just a school project; the students





got to contribute to real-world science progression.”

According to Stephan Wolanczyk, a materials engineer at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright -Patterson AFB, Ohio, the initial effort involved the Materials Directorate and the five U.S. major spacecraft manufacturers - Boeing, TRW, Space Systems Loral, Hughes and Lockheed.

“Our goal was to collaborate on space-based projects that

would benefit the members equally, that we could fund on a cost-sharing basis,” Wolanczyk explained. “They got all the major players in the space community to work together on developing technologies.”

The DOD Shuttle/ISS Payloads Office, DOD Space Test Program and NASA’s Johnson Space Center completed final preparation, integration, inspection and qualification for this mission. This

organization is aligned under SMC’s Detachment 12, Kirtland AFB, N.M.

SMC is the center of technical excellence for developing and purchasing military space systems and manages more than \$56 billion in contracts. The center has an annual operating budget of more than \$5.5 billion and employs about 3,400 people worldwide.



## NASA Photos



Left to right, opposite page: – Astronauts Dan Barry and Pat Forrester ride the shuttle mechanical arm to the ISS Quest Airlock with a MISSE material carrier in tow. – MISSE carrier open attached to end of airlock exposing material samples just before sunset. Left to right, this page: – Barry opens the carrier on end of airlock. – The carrier is fully opened. – Barry and Forrester installing the MISSE handrail clamp on end of airlock while holding the carrier. – Wide view of airlock and part of ISS. – Astronauts work at end of airlock on an MISSE carrier while another carrier is seen attached to airlock gas tank.



## Tech. Sgt. Michael Vance

...is the Chief of Plans and Programs and the Installation Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Officer for the 61st Security Forces Squadron at Los Angeles AFB.

The 17-year Air Force veteran has been stationed in Los Angeles for one year this

month. He is responsible for writing squadron operating instructions and policies and procedures for the squadron. He also reviews all applicable Air Force and Department of Defense instructions that govern security to ensure those guidelines are being followed locally.

“I think my job is important because I help create living and

## Leading L.A.

working spaces on Los Angeles AFB that are about 28 times safer than living or working off-base,” Vance said. “I also conduct vulnerability assessments and suggest measures to ensure the base is secured. Security isn’t glamorous but as world events show us, it’s critically important.”

If Vance isn’t at work, you

might find him on the golf course. He has a 16 handicap and has taken part in several golf tournaments this year.

One place you won’t find the Halifax, Virginia, native is in school. At least for now as Vance says he’s tapped out. He completed a dual masters of arts in human resources development and management last year, and also holds a bachelors of science in criminal justice.



# Making your house a home

## Base officials update status of Town Hall requests

*Many of the issues raised at the Town Hall in July have been closed, although some issues are still being worked. As a follow-up, here is the current status of questions asked and previously reported in the Aug. 10, 2001, edition of the Astro News. More information will be reported when available.*

**Q.** Can an occupied house without carpet be placed on the carpet installation list?

**A.** Carpet condition inventory was accomplished in military family housing. Homes requiring replacement carpet have been identified and the installation plan is underway.

**Q.** Is it possible to not install carpet in areas under the kitchen snack/breakfast bar? This area should be tiled so the carpet doesn't get ruined from spills.

**A.** This suggestion is incorporated within the new carpet installation plan.

**Q.** Can the wooden fences be treated? It seems like they

are always in need of repair.

**A.** Sprayers and stain/sealer are now available in the Self-Help store. We will move away from wooden fencing as funding allows.

**Q.** Are there plans to build ramps at the end of the sidewalk on Old Fort Road and Arthur MacArthur?

**A.** These projects will be prioritized by the Facilities Board.

**Q.** I have problems with gophers. What can be done?

**A.** We are focusing our efforts and funds on resolving a large-scale ant problem in Pacific Heights and Pacific Crest. Pesticides are on hand in the Self-Help store. We are in the first phase of a three-phased treatment program to control ants in Pacific Heights and Pacific Crest. This regimen will continue for several weeks.

Once this is resolved, we will work on the gopher issue.

**Q.** When will the gate at

Pacific Heights be open?

**A.** Pacific Heights gate is now open.

**Q.** What is the policy for personnel from Civil Engineering to work on warranty items?

**A.** A warranty inspection was conducted and outstanding issues were identified. The contractor has been given direction to resolve the issues. We will continue to track this item until the contractor has resolved all issues.

**Q.** What is the latest status on allowing fences at Pacific Heights II?

**A.** Fencing is not considered appropriate.

**Q.** Can the overgrown grounds at the rear gate of Pacific Heights II be cut back?

**A.** This area has been cut and will be maintained.

**Q.** We need more Teen Center programs.

**A.** We are tentatively scheduled to have the grand

Individual appointments can be made by calling 363-6815, or you can ask at the front desk for a trainer.

### Worship schedule

Roman Catholic: Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays at 4 p.m., Mass at 4:30 p.m. Mass at 9 a.m. Sundays. Protestant: General worship at 10:30 a.m. Contact Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Walker at 363-6433 for info.

### Yom Kippur

The Jewish High Holy Day period will conclude with the solemn observance of Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement, at sundown Wednesday, Sept. 26 through Thursday, Sept. 27, one hour after sunset.

The Biblical source for this, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, is founded in the book of Leviticus, Chapter 23: "the tenth day of the seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a Holy Convocation to you, and you shall afflict your souls. You shall do no work throughout the day for it is a Day of Atonement."

It is from this source that



Photo by Paul Testerman

A worker brings new carpet to military housing at Fort MacArthur.

opening of the new Youth Complex in Building 425 on Oct. 25. This will allow us to expand programming. In addition, we anticipate that we will have hired a teen coordinator in time for the opening of this facility.

**Q.** Can the pediatrician work at the Fort MacArthur clinic where most of the families with small children live?

**A.** The test program started Sept. 7. During the test, we will track workload and customer feedback, so be sure to comment!

**Q.** What happened to the neighborhood watch program?

**A.** No interest as of Sept. 6, although other community policing initiatives continue daily with foot and bike patrols and weekly with the Deputy Auxiliary Police program.

**Q.** Can we get computers in the Family Support Center so newly arriving families can access their personal e-mail accounts?

**A.** Computers are received and Space Command will fund an AOL server.

### Family Child Care

Los Angeles AFB is striving to expand Family Child Care Services in homes of military and retired military members. If you are a spouse who lives either on or off base and are interested in becoming a licensed family child care provider, contact Christina Kobayashi at 363-8334 or stop by the Child Development Center at Fort MacArthur, Building 31.

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 34-276, persons wishing to provide child care for more than 10 hours per week on a regular basis in base housing must be trained, certified and granted a license by the base commander.

The following individuals are licensed to provide care in their homes. Contact them for times, ages and availability:

Ann Hall, 832-5673; Kellie Heironimus, 833-5751; Tina Alejandro, 832-2620; Victor Martin, 832-7916; Monica Frank, 241-1422; Joane Smith, 548-3910; Tami Phillips, 831-1814; Jennifer Worcester, 547-

9281; Samuella Fowlkes, 833-8435; Leslie Galvan, 519-1428; Jennifer Garza, 831-0474; Maribeth Alcayde, 832-4170.

### Extended child care

The Child Development Center will implement a new child care initiative to extend the hours of child care to accommodate for extended duty hours. Extended duty is defined as temporary shift change, unplanned weekend duty, short-term temporary additional duty if no other parent available, dual military or single parent deployment. For more information, contact Iris Alexander at 363-5950.

### The Fitness Center

The Fitness Center offers one-on-one free individualized fitness programming. Personal trainers provide the following services: fitness assessments, personal fitness planning, fitness goal setting, programs to lower cholesterol, strength training, cardiovascular training, proper use of equipment and proper lifting techniques.

information at 363-1956.

– **Chaplain Alan Kalinsky**

## ASTRO NEWS DEADLINES

The Los Angeles AFB paper, the *Astro News*, is published every other week on Friday. The editorial office is located within the Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs Office in Building 105, Room 4049, in Area A. The telephone number is 363-0303.

Deadline for article submissions is Friday at noon the week before the publication date. Articles and digital photos should be sent via e-mail to the editor at:

**smc.pa.astronews  
@ losangeles.af.mil**

The deadline for Oct. 5 is Sept. 28 and the deadline for Oct. 19 is Oct. 12. Call 363-0303 for more information.

Judiasm teaches us how to observe this special day. The commandment – "to afflict your souls" – is fulfilled by a complete and total fast – abstaining from eating and drinking for 25 hours. The obligation to fast, coupled with five religious services in the 25 hours period, helps focus and direct all worshippers to address the need to seek forgiveness from G-d and fellow human beings.

The wearing of white garments for women and children and a special white robe worn by all men is a time honored custom – symbolizing purity and forgiveness.

The conclusion of the Day of Atonement is marked by a single long blast of the Shofar – the ram's horn. It signals the joy and elation of all worshippers, who know that G-d has forgiven them for their misdeeds and shortcomings and has blessed them with health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

Synagogues throughout the Los Angeles area have invited Jewish military personnel to their celebrations. Contact the chaplain's office for more



